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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY UK/Germany/Switzerland/Sweden/USSR

SUBJECT Status of Soil Mechanics

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3. Switzerland, of course, has special problems with its high mountains. Its laboratories are doing some, rather limited basic research; for example, work is being done on the structure of clay. The Marmorera dam is the only earthen dam of any importance in Switzerland. All the other earthen dams are very small. The Marmorera dam was finished and in use during World War II. It now has a barrier around it but the techniques used at Marmorera were copied from the US Bureau of Reclamation. I heard nothing at the conference about trafficability in Swiss soils.

4. Sweden is ahead of the US in the exploration and sampling of soils. The US is ahead of Sweden in testing. Sweden is doing much research on the properties of clays and the study of earth slides. Earth dams in Sweden are way behind the US in kind, size and method of control. All the earth dams in Sweden are small. Much effort is being placed on basic research on all phases of soils in Sweden. There have been many publications on soil mechanics by Swedish scientists. Upsaala is working particularly in field exploration. Its techniques in this are ahead of the US.

5. There were no Soviet representatives at the Third International Conference on Soil Mechanics which was held in Zurich 6-26 Aug 53, nor were any Soviet papers read at the meeting. I heard no reports or rumors as to the extent of Soviet techniques and procedures.

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